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68—13—70.

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(54) Aerial for Body-worn Radio Apparatus

(57) An aerial system for bodyworn radio apparatus such as a transceiver comprises a first conductor 3 attached to or incorporated in a strap 2 of a carrying harness arranged to pass over the shoulder of the wearer, and a second conductor 4 suspended from the harness or transceiver. The first

conductor is connected to the earthy side of the aerial input of the transceiver and acts as an electrical counterpoise for the second conductor which is connected to the live side of the aerial input.

The second conductor may have an electrical length of a quarter of the wavelength to which the transceiver is tuned and to provide a compact construction may be helically wound.

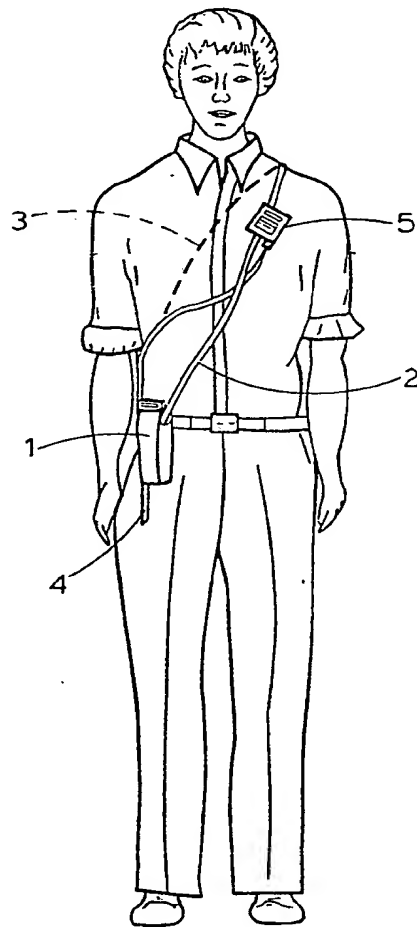


Fig.1

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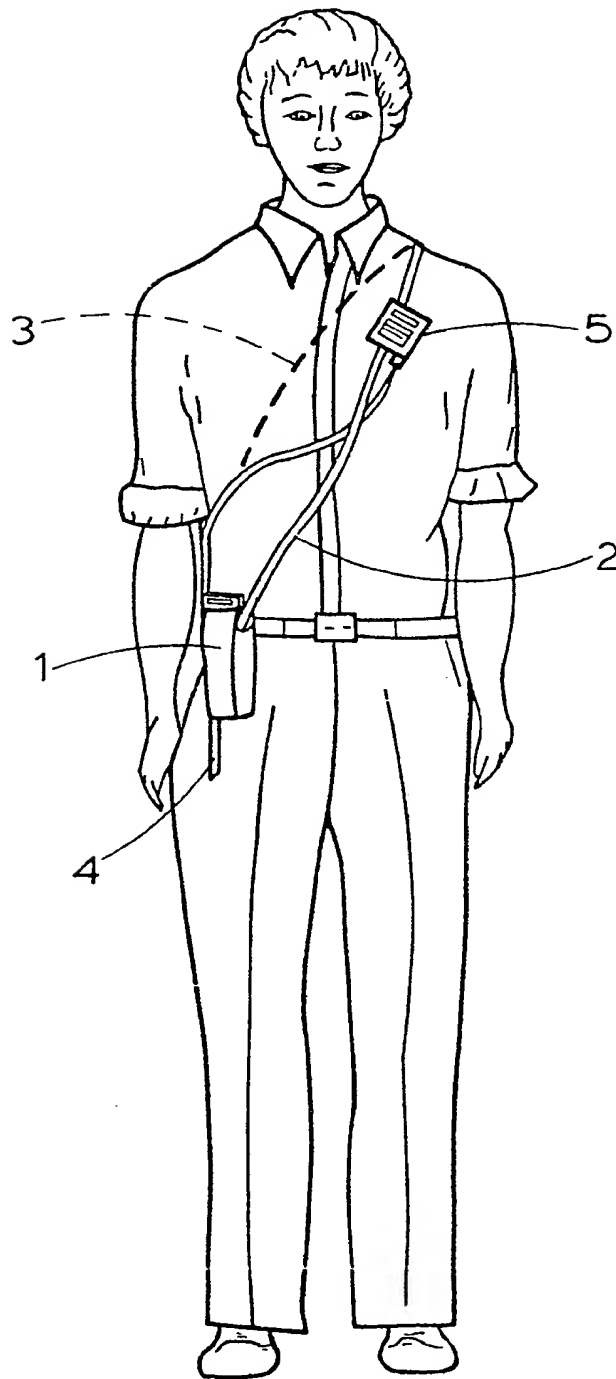


Fig.1

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Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b



Fig. 2c



Fig. 2d



Fig. 2e



Fig. 2f

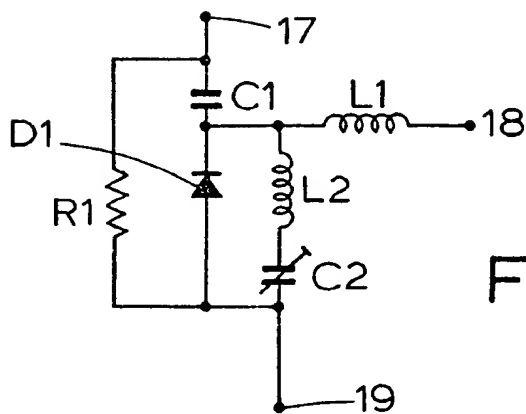


Fig. 6

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3/3

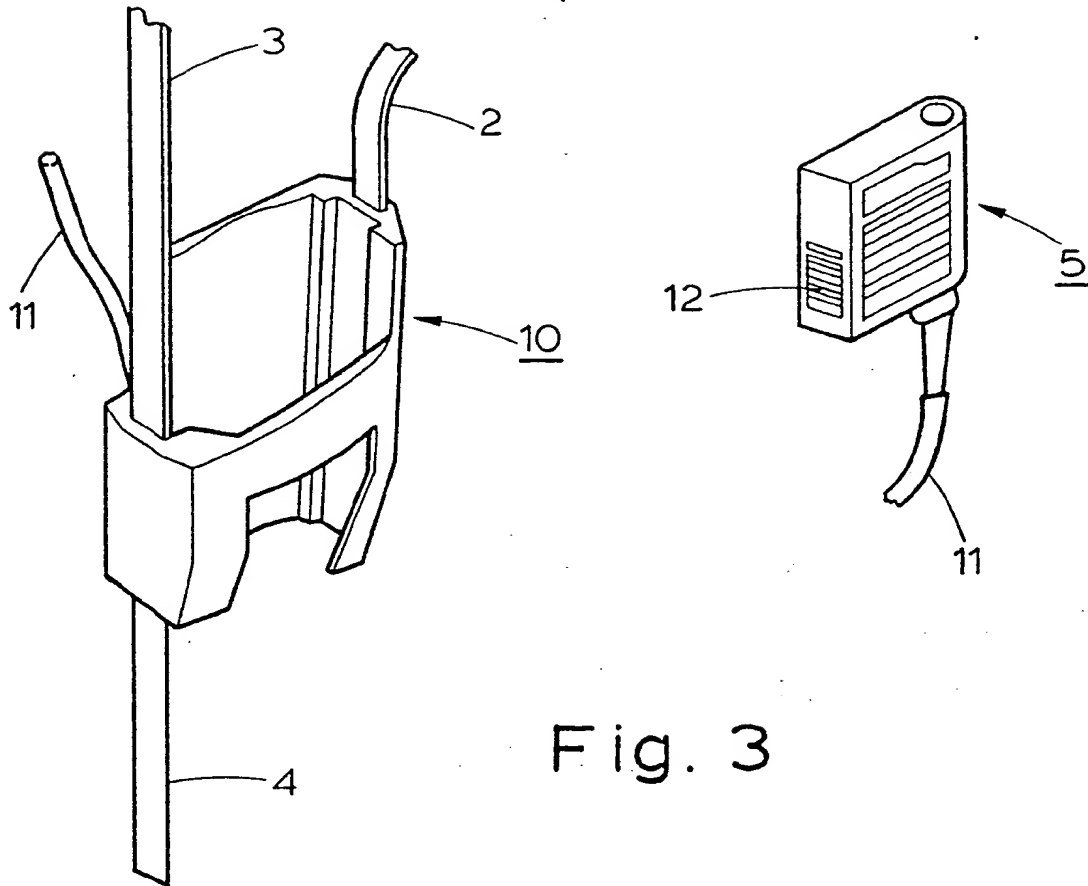


Fig. 3

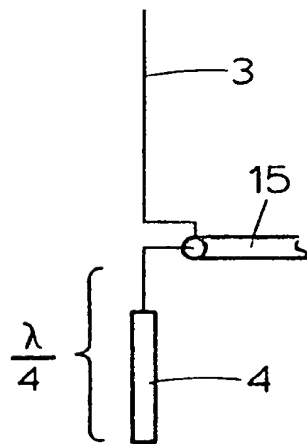


Fig. 4

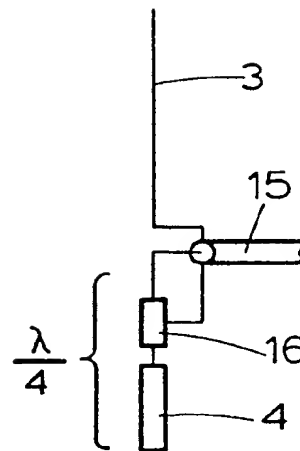


Fig. 5

SPECIFICATION Aerial System for Bodyworn Radio Apparatus

5 The invention relates to an aerial system for
bodyworn radio apparatus comprising a harness
for carrying the radio apparatus, a first conductor
attached to or incorporated in a strap of the
harness arranged to pass over the shoulder of the
wearer, a second conductor suspended from the
harness or radio apparatus and means for
10 connecting one end of each of the conductors to
an aerial input of the radio apparatus.

Portable radio transceivers may for
convenience be worn at the hip of the user and
15 may be carried on a harness which comprises a
strap which extends over the shoulder of the user.
A known aerial system for such a transceiver
comprises a first conductor attached to or
embedded in the strap and connected to the live
20 side of the aerial input of the transceiver and an
electrical counterpoise in the form of a length of
wire which is suspended from the transceiver and
connected to the earthy side of the aerial input i.e.
the side connected to the chassis or case of the
25 transceiver. Thus if a co-axial feeder is used to
connect the aerial system to the input and/or
output of the transceiver the first conductor
would be coupled to the inner conductor and the
counterpoise of the screen of the co-axial cable.
30 The length of the first conductor depends on the
frequency of operation of the transceiver but is
normally chosen to be approximately a quarter of
the wavelength of the radio waves to which the
transceiver is tuned. Such aeriels suffer from the
35 disadvantages that performance varies markedly
with the position of the wearer due to body
absorption and screening of the radio waves and
marked changes in resonant frequency occur due
to variations in capacitance to earth when the
40 wearer moves or when clothing thickness is
changed. The aerial has a significantly worse
performance than a quarter wave whip aerial
employed on a hand held transceiver.

It is an object of the invention to provide an
45 aerial system for a bodyworn radio apparatus
which is less influenced by the body position than
the aerial discussed hereinbefore.

The invention provides an aerial system for
bodyworn radio apparatus comprising a harness
50 for carrying the radio apparatus, a first conductor
attached to or incorporated in a strap of the
harness arranged to pass over the shoulder of the
wearer, a second conductor suspended from the
harness or radio apparatus and means for
55 connecting one end of each of the conductors to
an aerial input of the radio apparatus
characterised in that the second conductor is
connected to the live side of the aerial input and
the first conductor is connected to the earthy side
60 of the aerial input. It has been found that by
reversing the connection between the first and
second conductors and the aerial input the effect
of body capacitance and shielding is reduced, and
that at 70 MHz the aerial system has

65 approximately 7 db greater gain than the
previously known configuration while at 170 MHz
approximately 2 db greater gain is achieved. The
second conductor may have an electrical length of
a quarter of the wavelength of the signal to which
70 the radio apparatus is tuned. To provide compact
construction the second conductor may be
helically wound.

Means may be provided for varying the
resonant frequency of the aerial system. This
75 enables the aerial to be tuned to a receive
frequency which is different from a transmitted
frequency. The means for varying the resonant
frequency may comprise means for inserting a
capacitive or inductance reactance between the
80 second conductor and the aerial input of the radio
apparatus.

Means may be provided for switching the
inductive or capacitance reactance into or out of
the aerial system, the switching being dependent
85 on whether the apparatus is receiving or
transmitting radio signals. The switching means
may comprise means for generating a direct
voltage and applying it via a transmission line
from the radio apparatus to the means for
90 inserting the reactance.

A holster may be attached to the harness, the
radio apparatus being carried in the holster. The
radio apparatus and holster may be provided with
a co-operating plug and socket assembly to
95 enable connection between the radio apparatus
and the aerial.

Embodiments of the invention will now be
described, by way of example, with reference to
the accompanying drawings, in which

100 Figure 1 shows an aerial system according to
the invention worn on the body of the user,

Figure 2 shows schematically alternative forms
for the pendant section of the aerial system,

105 Figure 3 is a perspective view of a holster for a
transceiver, the holster being carried on a harness
incorporating an aerial system according to the
invention,

Figure 4 shows schematically the electrical
circuit of the aerial system,

110 Figure 5 shows a modification of the aerial
system enabling the resonant frequency of the
aerial system to be varied, and

Figure 6 is a circuit diagram of the tuning
circuit of Figure 5.

115 Figure 1 shows a bodyworn transceiver 1
carried on a harness comprising a shoulder strap
2. An aerial system comprising a conductor 3
carried by the shoulder strap 2 where it passes
over the back of the wearer and a pendant section
120 4 is connected to the transceiver 1. A
microphone/loudspeaker unit 5 may be clipped to
the shoulder strap 2. The conductor 3 is
connected to the earthy side of the transceiver,
i.e. to the chassis or case, and forms an electrical
counterpoise for the pendant section 4 which is
125 connected to the live side of the transceiver and is
arranged to have an electrical length of
approximately a quarter of the wavelength of the
signal to which the transceiver is tuned. For

convenience the pendant section 4 may be formed as a helically wound conductor which gives a relatively compact construction. However, depending on the operating frequencies of the transceiver other forms of aerial section could be used. Figure 2 shows some of the alternative forms which could be used. Figure 2(a) shows a straight conductor which may be flexible, Figure 2(b) shows a centre loaded conductor, Figure 2(c) shows a helically wound conductor, Figure 2(d) shows a bottom loaded conductor, Figure 2(e) shows a straight conductor plus a helically wound conductor, and Figure 2(f) shows a capacitance loaded conductor.

Figure 3 shows a holster 10 in which the transceiver may be mounted. The harness 2 is connected to the holster 10 together with a cable 11 which leads from the microphone/loudspeaker unit 5. The cable 11, conductor 3 which is formed within the strap forming the harness 2 and pendant section 4 are all connected to a terminal block (not shown) with which a co-operating terminal block on the transceiver 1 mates when the transceiver is inserted in the holster. The microphone/loudspeaker unit 5 includes a pushbutton switch 12 which is pressed to switch the transceiver to the transmit mode and released to switch the transceiver to the receive mode.

Tests have shown that the performance of the aerial system is less affected by changes due to body capacitance and shielding than the previously known system. By making the conductor in the harness, which is close to the body, the electrical counterpoise, the variations in capacitance between this conductor and the body of the wearer due to varying thickness of clothes do not have as large an effect on the performance of the aerial system. Therefore a more consistent performance is achieved. In addition in a series of tests on this aerial system it has been found that an increase of gain relative to the gain when the suspended conductor is the counterpoise of approximately 7 db can be achieved at 70 MHz and 2 db at 170 MHz.

Figure 4 shows the electrical circuit of the aerial, the conductor 3 being connected to the screen of a co-axial cable 15 for connection to the input/output of the receiver/transmitter. The pendant section is connected to the central conductor of the co-axial cable 15. Figure 5 shows a modification to enable the resonant frequency of the aerial system to be altered. The transceiver may be arranged to transmit at a different frequency from that which it is tuned to receive, in which case the aerial has to be tuned to a frequency which is chosen as a compromise between the transmit and receive frequencies or the tuning has to be varied when the transceiver is switched from transmit to receive or vice versa. To achieve the variation in resonant frequency a tuning circuit 16 comprising inductive and/or capacitive reactance is switched into or out of circuit as the transceiver is switched between the transmit and receive modes. This may be

achieved by passing d.c. control signals over the cable 15.

Figure 6 shows one form the tuning circuit 16 may take. A terminal 17, which in operation is connected to the centre conductor of the cable 15, is connected to one end of a resistor R1 which is connected in parallel with the series arrangement of a capacitor C1 and diode D1. The junction of capacitor C1 and diode D1 is connected through an inductor L1 to a terminal 18 which is connected to the outer conductor of cable 15 and a series arrangement of an inductor L2 and a capacitor C2 is connected across the diode D1. The common point of R1, C1 and D1 is connected to a terminal 19.

In operation, when the transceiver is switched to the transmit mode a bias voltage is applied across cable 15 to terminals 17 and 18 of the tuning circuit 16 with terminal 17 being positive. This causes diode D1 to be forward biased through resistor R1 and inductor L1 and consequently to short circuit the series arrangement of inductor L2 and capacitor C2. Thus the resonant frequency of the aerial system is dependent mainly on the length of conductor 4. When the transceiver is switched to the receive mode the bias voltage is cut off and thus the diode D1 is no longer forward biased and consequently has a high impedance. This causes the series arrangement of inductor L2 and capacitor C2 to be connected in series with conductor 4 of the aerial system thus loading the aerial and changing its resonant frequency. The receive frequency may be above or below the transmit frequency depending on the values chosen for inductor L2 and capacitor C2.

While the invention has been described in relation to a bodyworn transceiver it can be applied to other radio apparatus such as simple radio transmitters or receivers or paging receivers.

105 Claims

1. An aerial system for bodyworn radio apparatus comprising a harness for carrying the radio apparatus, a first conductor attached to or incorporated in a strap of the harness arranged to pass over the shoulder of the wearer, a second conductor suspended from the harness or the radio apparatus, and means for connecting one end of each of the conductors to an aerial input of the radio apparatus characterised in that the second conductor is connected to the live side of the aerial input and the first conductor is connected to the earthy side of the aerial input.

2. An aerial system as claimed in Claim 1 in which the second conductor has an electrical length substantially equal to a quarter of the wavelength of the signal to which the apparatus is tuned.

3. An aerial system as claimed in Claims 1 or 2 in which the second conductor is helically wound.

4. An aerial system as claimed in Claims 1, 2 or 3 comprising means for varying the resonant frequency of the aerial system.

5. An aerial system as claimed in Claim 4 in

which the means for varying the resonant frequency comprises means for inserting a capacitive or inductive reactance between the second conductor and the aerial input of the radio apparatus.

- 5 6. An aerial system as claimed in Claim 5 comprising means for switching the inductive or capacitive reactance into or out of the aerial system, the switching being dependent on
- 10 whether the apparatus is receiving or transmitting radio signals.

7. An aerial system as claimed in Claim 6 in which the switching means comprises means for

- 15 generating a direct voltage and applying it via a transmission line from the radio apparatus to the means for inserting the reactance.

8. An aerial system as claimed in Claim 7 in which the radio apparatus and holster are provided with a co-operating plug and socket assembly to enable connection between the radio apparatus and the aerial.

- 20 9. An aerial system for bodyworn radio apparatus substantially as described herein with reference to Figure 1; Figures 1 and 2; Figures 1 to 3; Figures 1 to 3, 5 and 6; or to Figures 1 to 4 of the accompanying drawings.
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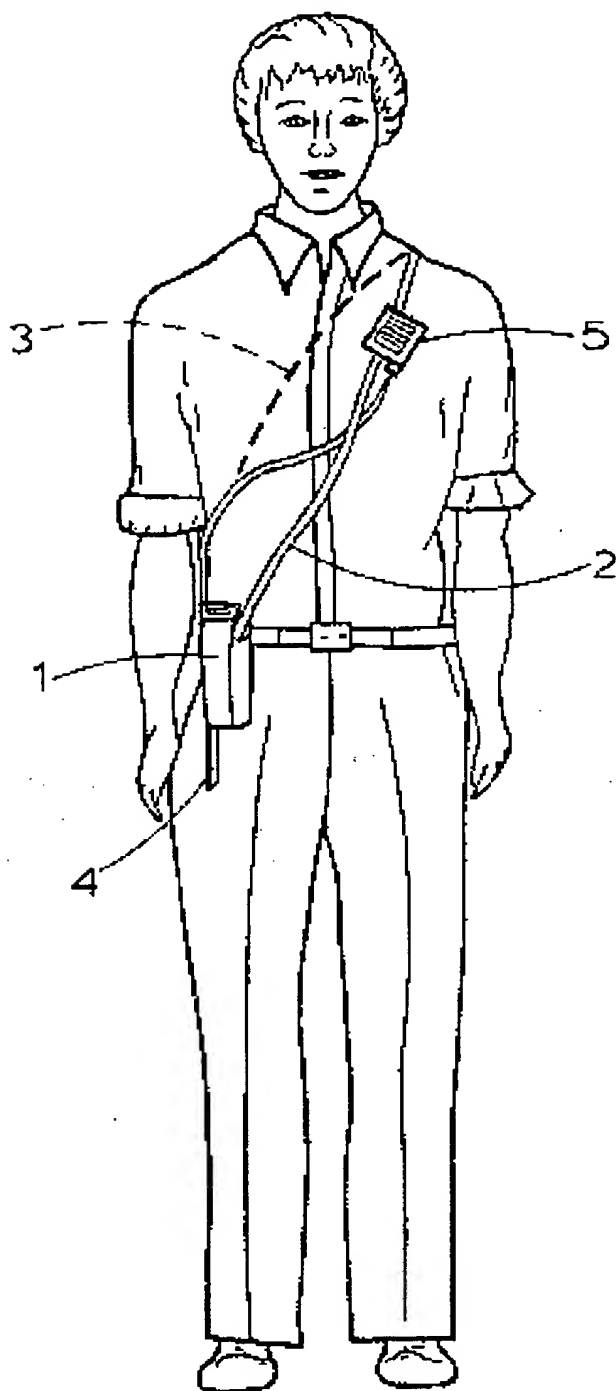


Fig.1

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Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b

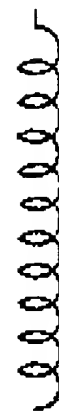


Fig. 2c



Fig. 2d



Fig. 2e



Fig. 2f

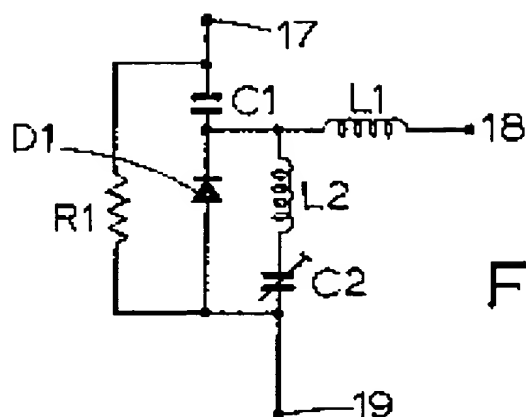


Fig. 6

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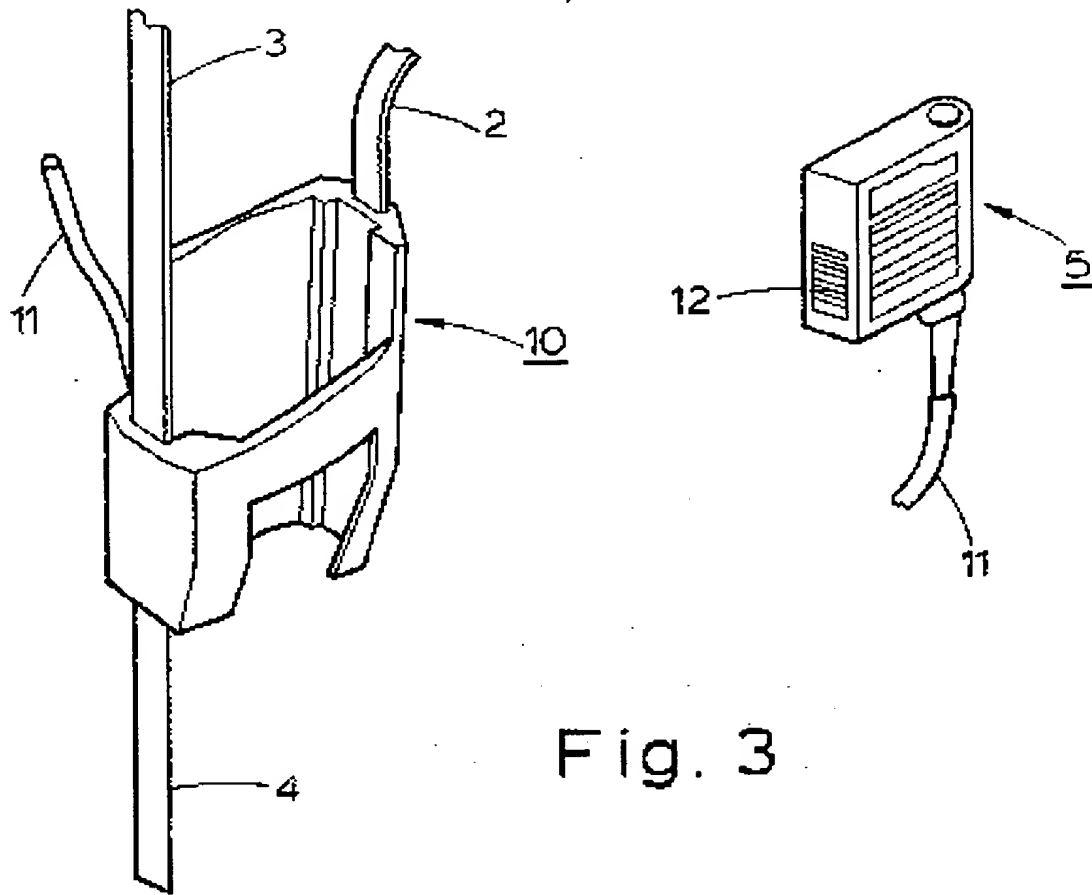


Fig. 3

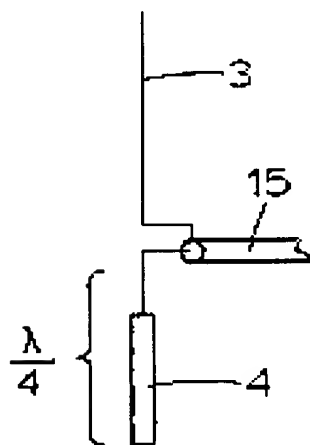


Fig. 4

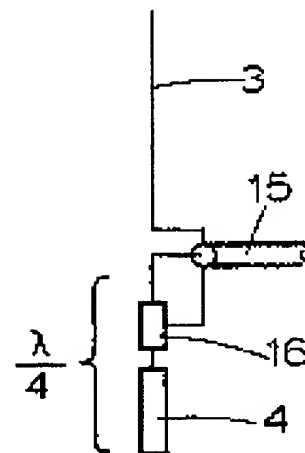


Fig. 5

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